Mr. A. B. Salem.—The summary of the complaints relating to the petition could have been placed before the House.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Now, the question has been fully gone into. May I know why so many petitions were put in against the Aminadar? What is the motive which induced such petitions? This would be a relevant piece of information.

President.—This is the time for questions and answers.

Mr. Cakko Cheruvattur.—This question was occasioned by information supplied to me that the enquiry was not properly conducted. The Aminadar under reference was asked to inform the tappers to come to the Traveller's Bungalow. It appears that the Aminadar has frightened away these people, and so only very few of them came. Only one or two of them were examined. This is the information which I got. I do not know whether it is true or not. The Hon'ble Member, when I went with the petitioners, promised to give me information, which he has not done.

President.—We can proceed with the next question.

The consumption of arrack.

113. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state the quantity of arrack consumed in the year 1101, and whether the quantity consumed in that year is more than the quantity consumed in the previous year, citing the figures for both the years?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—1101—37,542·83 proof gallons. 1100—33,274·8 proof gallons.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—A part of my question has not been answered. I asked whether the quantity consumed in 1101 is more than the quantity consumed in previous years, and only certain figures are given as answer.

President.—From the figures the answer is clear. Only a subtraction is necessary.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—There is an inconsistency in the policy of the Government, which has been laid down. The Government have declared in answer to a question put by me on a previous occasion that its policy is to decrease the quantity consumed. I wish to know whether that policy has been kept up.

President.—The consumption in 1101 is more than in 1100. There is a larger consumption in 1101.

Year after year we are using a larger quantity. What is it due to?

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Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—With regard to 1100, that year was a very bad year owing to the floods and the consequent distress which accounts for the less consumption.

President.—Do you mean that in 1101 there was plenty?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—That year was a little better than 1100.

President.—What is the figure in 1099? Are you in a position to say that?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is forty thousand and odd, Sir. Moreover, in British India and Travancore, the consumption never falls down steadily. The consumption in 1101 in Travancore is 50 thousand gallons, and in 1100, 45 thousand. The consumption will be fluctuating. If you take the consumption for a series of years, it will be seen that the consumption, instead of going up, is coming down.

President.—Do you mean to say you cannot expect decrease every year?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—No, we cannot find it.

President.—Therefore, there will not be reduction year after year. You will have to take the result for a number of years, and then only, you can come to a conclusion.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—One more fact, Sir. In 1101 the yield from cocoanut trees was much less than the previous years on account of the floods. Therefore, people had to resort more to arrack on account of the less toddy. People who usually take toddy had necessarily to go to arrack. That also was one of the reasons for the increase.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—So there is an increase in the drunkenness in the country.

President.—You may make your own inference.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—If there is increase in the population, then, I can understand the view of the Hon'ble Member. But the increase in population is very small, while the increase in consumption is very high. I think we are not working with the policy laid down by the Government. May I know how many years' figures we have to take to know how the consumption has fallen down?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I have answered this question in the last session. We must take five or six years. In one year there will be increase, in another year there will be a decrease, and so on. Therefore, if you take five or six years, you can see that the consumption has been considerably reduced.

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Mr. K. T. Mathew.—How many years' result have we to take? Is it for the last five years and by comparing them with those of the previous years, or for ten years?

President.—Take intervals of five years. Then, you will find it.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—A point of information, Sir. What has the Superintendent done to decrease the consumption?

President.—This is not the time for asking that question.

The improvement of the Trikkur road.

114. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) what substantial arrangement they propose to make for improving the Trikkur road inasmuch as the Diwan-President himself expressed the difficulty for travelling thereby;

(2) why the construction of the particular road work was refused to be entrusted, even if sufficient security was offered, on the understanding that it will be completed with the unspent balance allotted for it?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—

(1) The work has already been entrusted for execution.

(2) There was no refusal to entrust the work to anybody. Tenders were invited, and the work entrusted on terms most favourable.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—My reference was not to the road under construction, but it was regarding the old road on which more than Rs. 16,000 was spent.

President.—The Government gave up the new road, as it was found that to spend money on it would be a further waste. So the Government came to this conclusion, to resort to the older road by putting it in order.

The Edavanakkad bund.

115. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state in connection with the Edavanakkad bund —,

(1) the expenses incurred during the past 3 years thereon;

(2) the land tax of the area affected by the bund;

(3) the names of prominent *pattadars* with the extent possessed by each;

(4) whether such large amount is expended on any other irrigation work affecting only such extent?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) 1099 M. E.—Nil. 1100 M. E.—Rs. 13,024—11—9.

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